



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/732,252	12/07/2000	Rashmi Bhat	AUS9-2000-0931-US1	1634

7590 05/10/2004  
Edmond A. DeFrank  
20145 Via Medici  
Northridge, CA 91326

EXAMINER
----------

TRAN, ELLEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2134

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/732,252

Applicant(s)

BHAT, RASHMI

Examiner

Ellen C Tran

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
NORMAN M. WRIGHT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communication: original application filed  
17 August 2000.

2. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 17 are  
independent claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all  
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4 **Claims 1-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helle U.S.  
Patent No. 6,662,023 (hereinafter '023) in further view of Elledge U.S. Patent No. 6,609,656  
(hereinafter '656).

**As to independent claim 10, "A method for providing ownership  
identification information of lost electronic devices, comprising: displaying the ownership  
identification information on the display of the electronic device"** is taught in '023 col. 1,  
lines 48-55 "Displaying contact information";

**"when selecting an information mechanism"** is shown in '023 col. 3, lines 46-50 "The  
mobile phone 10 can go into secure mode at startup, as described above in relation to the owner  
information display module section, or can be switched into the secure mode";

**“providing protected access to data stored on the electronic device when the information mechanism is activated”** is disclosed in ‘023 col. 3, lines 30-34 “The owner display module 52 disables any other use of the mobile phone 10 (except for emergency calls);

**“and storing” ... “the ownership identification information”** is shown in ‘023 col. 2, line 66 through col. 3, line 2 “The random access memory 26 (FIG. 1) in the mobile phone 10 contains field where the owner/user can store information (above all, a phone number other than the mobile number) about him/herself”;

**“retrieving” ... “the ownership identification information”** is disclosed in ‘023 col. 3, line 63 through col. 4, line 2 “The mobile phone 10 goes into a phone locked state or mode, and a phone locked display message shown in FIG. 4 is displayed by the module 16 in FIG. 1. The owner number stored in memory 26 of the mobile phone is used in the phone locked display”;

**“and updating the ownership identification information”** is taught in ‘023 col. 4, lines 11-14 “In this case, the mobile phone number to be displayed can be sent with the control message, so it can be any number the owner finds convenient at the moment”;

the following is not taught in ‘023: **“on a global database”** however ‘656 teaches “Referring to FIG. 3, the central database 218 (FIG. 2) may be a computer server 218 which is connected via a computer network 300, to many local computers 212 .... The computer network 300 may be a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN) or alternatively, a part of the global computer information network, otherwise known as the internet” in col. 6, lines 10-22.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify a method to protect ownership of electronic devices taught in '023 to include a means to maintain a global network. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification because the theft of portable devices is widespread today see '656 (col. 1, lines 14 et seq.) "The theft of portable devices, especially portable electronic devices, continues to be a widespread problem in the United States and world-wide".

**As to dependent claim 11, "wherein the global database stores a unique serial number of the electronic device along with ownership identification information so that each owner's identification information is associated with each unique serial number"** is shown in '023 col. 4, lines 15-21 "If the mobile phone is switched off and after being put into a phone lost mode, the mobile phone starts up as described in the previous section, but if the (PIN and) security code is not entered correctly," (i.e. "unique serial number" same as "PIN").

**As to dependent claim 12, "further comprising tracing lost or stolen electronic device if the lost or stolen device communicates with an affiliated Internet service provider"** is disclosed in '023 col. 5, lines 37-40 "The Short Message System (SMS), which is known in the art, provides a natural choice or scheme .... Including wireless internet connections".

**As to dependent claims 13 and 14, "wherein the ownership identification information includes at least one of instructions for returning the electronic device or information relating to the owner" and "wherein the information relating to the owner includes at least one of the owner's name, contact telephone number, return address or**

**Internet World Wide Web site**” are taught in ‘023 col. 1, lines 48-50 “Displaying contact information (phone number) of the owner”.

**As to dependent claims 15 and 16, “wherein the electronic device is a portable computer”** and **“wherein the electronic device is a personal data assistant”** are shown in ‘023 col. 2, lines 31-32 “The scope of the invention is also intended to cover other mobile electronic devices, such as portable computer”.

**As to independent claim 1**, this claim is directed to the security system of the method of claim 10 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**As to dependent claim 2, “further comprising a communications device coupled to a network for accessing a global database”** is taught in ‘023 col. 5, lines 40-46 “The receiving mobile phone can receive the control message automatically whenever it is “on” and in contact with a network”.

**As to dependent claims 3-9**, these claim contain substantially similar subject matter as claims 10-16 and are rejected along the same rationale.

**As to independent 17**, this claim is directed to the identification and security system of method 10 and is rejected along the same rationale (i.e. “information button” same as “information mechanism”).

**As to dependent claim 18**, this claim contains substantially similar subject matter as claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

**As to dependent claims 19 and 20**, these claims contain substantially similar subject matter as claims 11 and 12 above and are rejected along the same rationale.

*Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

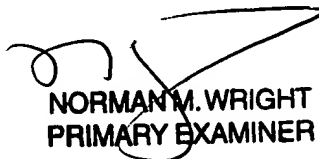
McGibney U.S. Patent No. 6,509,867 issued dated: Jan. 21, 2003

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ellen C Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-8917. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory A Morse can be reached on (703) 308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

Ellen Tran,  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2134  
27 April 2004

  
NORMAN M. WRIGHT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER